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Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 5

May 1996

Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project Draft EIS Out In Mid-Summer

by Genie Ott, Interior Columbia Basin
Ecosystem Management Project,
Walla Walla, Washington.



Map shows 75-million-acre area of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming and Montana

The Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be presented to the Chief of the Forest Service and the Director of the Bureau of Land Management in June. It is slated for release to the public in mid-summer for a 90-day review and comment period.

Salmon, forest and rangeland health, community uncertainty and species at risk are at the heart of the Interior Co-

lumbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project that was initiated in the spring of 1993. It covers nearly 75 million acres of Federally-managed lands east of the Cascade Crest in Washington and Oregon and extends into five other States with rivers that ultimately feed into the Columbia River.

The charter for the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) was signed in January 1994 by Jack Ward Thomas, Chief of the Forest Service, and Jim Baca, Director of the

Bureau of Land Management. The project's goals are to replace interim direction with long-term planning, reduce future litigation and appeals, save money, obtain accurate sustainable resource information, encourage public participation, and follow a presidential directive to use recent scientific data.

Using a scientifically sound, ecosystem-based approach, scientists have been studying life on land and in the water, economics, human life and landscape ecology using existing data. Geographic Information Systems and computer modeling were used to gather and analyze data.

The analysis in turn is being written in two Environmental Impact Statements (EIS): the Eastside EIS, which covers eastern Washington and Oregon; and the Upper Columbia River Basin EIS for Idaho, western Montana and portions of Wyoming, Utah and Nevada.

This analysis will cover all or parts of 31 National Forests and 17 Bureau of Land Management Districts within the Columbia River Basin.

For additional details, contact ICBEMP, 112 East Poplar St., Walla Walla, WA 99362; telephone (509) 522-4030 (TTY: 509/522-4029).

Mountain on Beaverhead NF Will Never Be The Same

by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Officer,
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests

November 1918, France: Peace has finally silenced the terrible roar of war across the Western Front. Europe and a whole generation of young men lie torn and bloody. The shooting has stopped, but not the dying.

In an Army hospital, 25-year-old Homer Youngs bleeds to death when an artery in his wounded right arm ruptures. Wounded in war, but dying in peacetime, Youngs leaves behind a young widow and his infant namesake son, born after he shipped off to war.

A few years pass: A thief steals a trunk from Homer Youngs' widow's Berkeley, California, apartment. In it are all the personal effects of her late husband. Lost forever to her son is this tangible evidence of his father. A while later on another shore: The U.S. Department of Agriculture dedicates a plaque to its employees who fell in the Great War, among them Homer Youngs.

1925: The Forest Service, also wishing to honor its own, proposes to rename a peak southwest of Jackson, Montana after Homer Youngs. It makes similar proposals elsewhere for others who left its service only to die "over there."

1935: The Board of Geographical Names approves the naming of Homer Youngs Peak in the Beaverhead National Forest. The 10,612-foot peak sits in the Bitterroot Range, but apart from it enough to lie entirely east of the Continental Divide, a fact probably first noted by a young Forest Service surveyor, Homer Youngs.

More time passes: Memory fades for all but that infant boy, now grown to manhood, Homer Youngs, Jr. Stories from his mother of a never-met father are all he has. The thief in Berkeley stole the rest.

1994: San Diego, California: While looking at an atlas, Homer Youngs, Jr. sees his name on a peak in Montana and begins his quest. He writes to the Forest Service.



Homer Youngs Peak (10,612 feet), Beaverhead-Deerlodge NFs.



Homer Youngs Jr., (right) talks with Dennis Havig, Wisdom (Montana) District Ranger, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NF.

Photos by Jack de Golia.

He visits the USDA headquarters to see the plaque. He begins gathering documents and photographs. They include a booklet USDA gave to families of those honored on the plaque. They include photographs of the young surveyor, atop a ridge in the Lewis and Clark NF. They include a photograph of a handsome man in uniform.

More recently, the collection was augmented, thanks to help from Northern Region and Beaverhead NF employees. We found a letter to the R-1 newsletter of the day, thanking his fellow employees for the package of gum and candy they'd sent to him and his fellow R-1 soldiers at the front. The letters tells of unspeakable sights and sounds of war, of mud and miserably wet feet, good food, of getting over a cold, of Hell on Earth.

1995: The Big Hole, Montana Homer Youngs, Jr., now of San Diego, arrives at

the Wisdom Ranger Station to join Ranger Dennis Havig for a walk to Homer Youngs Peak. He's here he says, to "dot i's and cross t's," to acknowledge the honor of the mountain for his father, and to plant a bit of the Youngs family on the mountainside-bits of grandchildren's baby teeth, some of his own. He wants his Dad's DNA on the mountain, he says, and this is as close as he can get.

The future: For all of us there that August day with Homer Youngs Jr., the sight of Homer Youngs Peak will never be the same. No more will we see "just another mountain". Now two people will always be on it in our memories--a young surveyor/soldier and an old man--one whose promise was cut short, the other who made a promise and kept it.

Geographic Information System Comes to Clearwater National Forest

by Ed Lozar, Geographic Information System Coordinator, Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, Idaho

The new Forest Service IBM computer system is upon us. Geographic Information System (GIS) technologies are in place. Forest Plan revision and ecosystems management and their complexities have arrived.

Therefore, the Forest-level implementation of GIS has arrived. GIS technology is a tool that links map areas or features to their associated data for display and analysis. It is a wise investment in the future.

The Forest Supervisor and staff officers considered economics and technological advancements as they evaluated the Forest GIS work needs. These work needs were identified through the application of GIS analysis techniques as a prototype in the Lochsa Face ecosystem management project. The project identified the basic information needs in an ecosystem analysis.

Forest Supervisors and their staffs concluded that the most efficient way to bring the Forest on line in GIS was to form a self-directed team to work with Forest specialists and Districts in developing a Forestwide GIS.

The basic plan is to have the vegetation, land type association, watersheds, streams, road and trails, ownership, fire, management areas and visual map layers digitized and linked to Oracle data bases in the next two years.

The self-managed team will work for a Board of Directors (BOD) consisting of the Palouse District Ranger and supervisor's office staff officers in Ecosystem Planning, Ecosystem Management, Technical Services and the Administrative Officer. The BOD will establish or approve broad Forest objectives and budgets. The team will independently decide priorities and methods to accomplish their tasks, and recommend a proposed budget to the BOD, based on estimates of benefiting functions.

Objectives, processes and the organizational structure will be periodically reevaluated to insure they are efficient and necessary.

Bringing Archaeology Into the Classrooms

by Connie Reid, Archaeologist, Kootenai NF SO, Libby, Montana

Three years ago the THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS carried a brief item about a teaching curriculum under development by the Kootenai NF's Heritage Resources Program.

The curriculum, now complete, was developed in partnership with Libby, Montana, area elementary schools as a Challenge Cost Share project. One of the products of this partnership effort is a teacher's resource guide, "Montana's Heritage: Bringing Archaeology Into the Classroom", and hands-on kits for teachers to use with the 230-page guide.

The guide and kits are currently being used in schools in Montana's Lincoln and Sanders counties.

Kootenai NF archaeologists have been invited to conduct several in-service training sessions for teachers using the curriculum in local schools.

While the hands-on kits were designed and developed for use by area teachers, the guide is available for wide distribution and use. It contains a reference section on the field of archaeology; a prehistory and history section; a variety of student exercises; instructions on how to develop kits to accompany the student exercises; and supplemental materials for teachers.

Since the publication of the the teacher's resource guide, more than 500 copies have been requested by teachers and archaeologists from throughout the four-state Northern Region and across the United States.

Those interested in securing a copy of the guide should contact Connie Reid, Kootenai NF, 506 U.S. Highway 2 West, Libby, MT 59923; telephone (406) 293 6211; C.Reid:R01 F14A.

R-1 Employees Win Idaho "Orchid" Award

by Mike Beckes, Heritage Program, RØ Wilderness, Recreation & Heritage Program

The Idaho Historic Preservation Council has selected several R-1 employees as recipients of the prestigious "Orchid Award" for outstanding historic preservation and heritage resource accomplishments.

Bernie Weisgerber and the entire R-1 Preservation Team, Engineering, were recognized for their restoration work at Snyder Guard Station, Idaho Panhandle National Forests, and the Moose Creek Ranger Station, Nez Perce National Forest.

Ali Abusaidi, Nez Perce National Forest archeologist, was recognized for outstanding leadership in both historical and archeological work at Moose Creek RS.

The "Orchid Award" is the State of Idaho's highest form of recognition for excellence in all the fields of historic preservation. The awards to R-1 employees reflect very well on the Forest Service and the Northern Region's commitment to historic preservation.

Lookout Returns To Bear Mountain 44 Years Later

By Allen Jones, Rocky Point Lookout,
& Karen Feary, University of Idaho
student, Summer Dispatcher,
Powell RD, Clearwater NF.

Sam Grotte was 18 when he came to work for the Forest Service in the Spring of 1951 on a phone line crew on the Powell RD, Clearwater NF.

Frank Gummer, about 50 years old, was the crew boss. "We ran all the time and still couldn't work hard or fast enough for him," Grotte recalls. That summer, Grotte, Maury Lokensgaard, and a carpenter/ strawboss from Frenchtown, Montana, started building a new fire lookout tower on Bear Mountain, 11 miles southwest of Powell, Idaho, and 50 miles southwest of Missoula.

Timbers for the lookout had been dropped by parachute on a nearby ridge the previous winter by a Johnson Flying Service plane based in Missoula. Grotte remembers, distinctly, working with the creosoted-soaked timbers. When he left in the fall, the pants he wore could be stood in a corner.

When the crew finished the Bear Mountain work late in the fall, young Sam was off to attend the University in Missoula. He majored in music.

During the summers of 1952 and 1953, he returned to Powell to work as a lookout at Hidden Peak. In 1954, Grotte worked at the

Roundtop lookout and part-time at Beaver Ridge, seven miles away.

In 1955, he graduated from the university and signed on that summer as a smokejumper, based in Missoula. After a full season as a jumper, he entered the U.S. Air Force in October. Grotte graduated from flight school and then went through Air Force fighter training. He was stationed in Germany with a fighter squadron for four years; 1 1/2 years in Texas flying fighters; and flew fighter patrols in Alaska for four years.

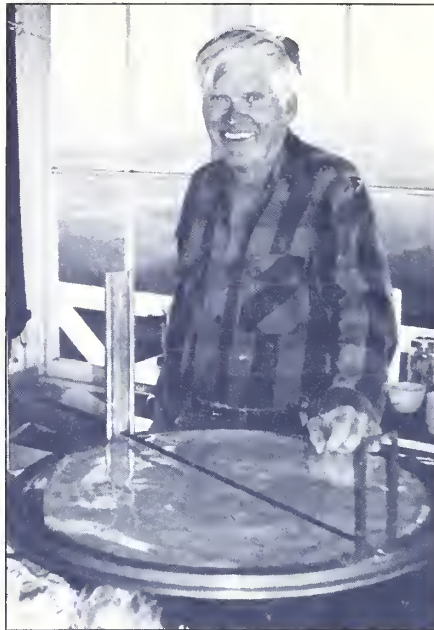
He left the Air Force in 1967 and started flying for American Airlines. After only six months with American, Grotte was recalled by the Air Force, to fly fighter missions, including six days flying F-100 fighters on combat missions in Viet Nam.

In 1969, Grotte returned to American Airlines, based in San Francisco. He retired from American in 1993 and settled in Salmon, Washington. He wanted to visit Bear Mountain to help and experience again the solitude and memories of earlier days. In 1995, Grotte's quest became a reality. He volun-

teered to run the Bear Mountain lookout again.

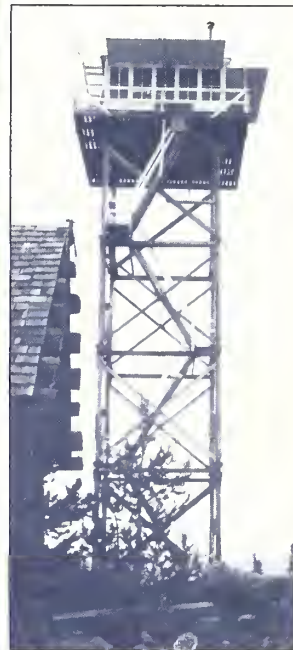
He went up on July 6 and came down August 9. While there, he took on a list of maintenance projects at the tower. His presence at the lookout helped to restore and strengthen one of the truly great towers still in use on the Clearwater NF. Grotte located and called in three fires while on the lookout; apparently his skills were as sharp as ever — 44 years later.

Grotte's return to the district and help at Bear Mountain was greatly appreciated by Powell Ranger District employees.



(Left) Sam Grotte, 1995.
Photos by Lee Clark,
Powell RD, Clearwater NF.

(Below):
Bear Mountain Lookout



NORTHERN REGION PICNIC Saturday, June 15, Pattee Canyon, Lolo NF

by Jane Haker, Missoula Aerial Fire Depot

Regional Forester Hal Salwasser announced the upcoming Northern Region Forest Service Picnic in a letter to all employees last week. The "Spring Thaw" picnic has been set for Saturday, June 15, 1996 at Pattee Canyon Group Picnic Area (minutes outside Missoula) beginning at 11:00 a.m.

A barbecue will be provided to cook your meal (11:00-1:00). Children's games and family activities are planned for all ages

(beginning at 1:00). Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl will be there. Horseshoes, softball, and volleyball are also planned for your enjoyment.

To offset the cost of the site and barbecue rental, we are asking for each person attending to chip in \$1, which will be collected at the gate. Two other fun activities (the "Sheep Pie Alamode" raffle and a "RLT Whipped Cream Pie Toss") will serve as fund raisers to also offset the rental costs.

Please plan to attend and share in the camaraderie of the Forest Service community. Pack up the family, bring something to BBQ and a potluck dish to share. Grab your lawn chairs and softball equipment, and head for Missoula on June 15th!

If you have questions, telephone the planning committee: Mark Wiggins, MTDC, (406) 329-3926; Jane Haker, Aerial Fire Depot, (406) 329-4905; Cheryl Vanderburg, Lolo NF SO, (406) 329-3832; Cheryl Zwang, RO Public Affairs Office, (406) 329-3028; Kimberly Landl, RO Public Affairs Office (406) 329-3095.

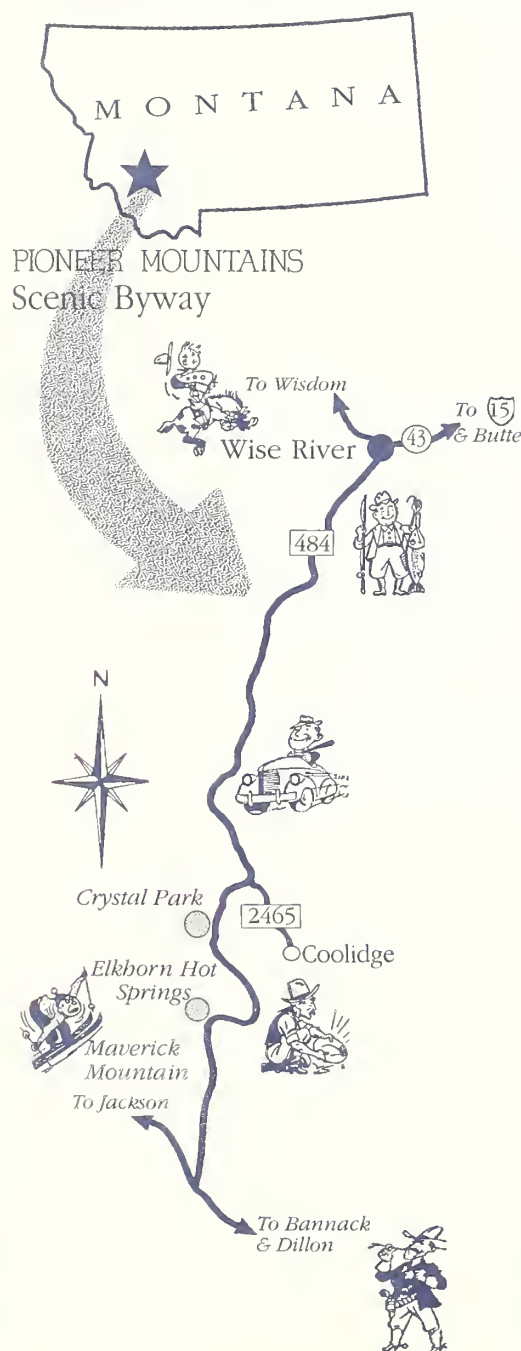
PIONEER MOUNTAINS

Scenic Byway
Shows The West

The Way It Used To Be



View from Grand Vista Interpretive Site, 18 miles south of the community of Wise River. Peaks of the East Pioneer Range are in the background. Photo by Dick Owenby



On the 44-mile Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge NFs, you can travel the length of the Pioneer Mountain Range. Granite peaks topping 10,000 feet elevation are to the east, and gentler, forested terrain stretches out to the west.

You'll see mountain meadows, lodgepole pine forests and broad "willow bottoms." The road gently ascends a 7,800 foot divide between Wise River, flowing north, and Grasshopper Creek, flowing south.

Designated a scenic byway January 10, 1989, it extends south from State Highway 43 at Wise River, Montana, to State Highway 278, between Dillon and Jackson. The northern 28 miles are paved. The remaining 16 miles are to be paved in the next four years. Interpretive sites along the byway tell travelers about the natural scene and some of the interesting history of the Pioneer Mountains.

Driving north to south, you first come to Wise River, a ranching community along the Big Hole River. Fishing "fanatics" arrive seasonally to try their skill on the Big Hole's blue-ribbon trout fishery. On the edge of Wise River, the byway takes you south, up the Wise River Valley. In this scenic valley, fields of sagebrush on the high ground give way to willows in the river bottoms. Lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir cover the adjacent hillsides. You can catch an occasional glimpse of moose, elk, mule deer, black bear, coyotes, and beaver. Early ranchers, miners, and trappers used this northern section of the road.

As the valley narrows, you can see the old railroad bed of the Montana Southern Railway, the last narrow-gauge railroad built in the United States. The railroad served the Elkhorn mine, one of the largest ore-mill

by Debra Gale, Recreation Forester, Wisdom (MT) RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NFs

structures in the United States, and the town of Coolidge that grew up around the mill. Elkhorn and Coolidge offer an interesting side trip from the byway.

At the head of Wise River, the byway climbs to the broad meadows of Moose Park and Crystal Park. Rock hounds come to Crystal Park in the summer to search for quartz crystals. The area is open to the public without charge. South of Crystal Park, the byway drops into the Grasshopper Creek valley and by the Elkhorn Hot Springs, where visitors can enjoy the hot outdoor pools. You pass Maverick Mountain ski area before you leave the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forests.

Beyond the Forest boundary, Grasshopper Creek valley widens to spectacular views. Cattle ranching has been the economic mainstay of this area for more than 100 years. The scenic valley is dotted with haystacks built with "beaverslides" and several large ranch headquarters.

The byway takes you through the small community of Polaris, with its rural school house and post office, and on out to State Highway 278. Travel along the byway will take you by eight Forest Service campgrounds. The area offers a wide array of hiking and riding trails.

The road is officially closed from December 1 through May 15 between Pettengill parking lot to the north and Elkhorn Hot Springs to the south. During that time, the byway is a National Recreation Snowmobile Trail, offering great snowmobiling and cross-country skiing.

For additional information on the Pioneers Mountains Scenic Byway contact: Beaverhead-Deerlodge NFs, 420 Barrett St., Dillon, MT 59725, (406) 683 3900.

Aerial Fire Depot Hosts Easter Egg Hunt For More Than 135 Kids

by Tracey Nimlos,
Missoula Aerial Fire Depot

More than 135 children and grandchildren of Missoula area Forest Service employees gathered Saturday afternoon, April 5, for the annual Forest Service Easter Egg Hunt at the Missoula Aerial Fire Depot.

Approximately 20 volunteers donated their time to plan and work on the day of the egg hunt. Dozens of other employees dyed more than 1,200 eggs and donated 600 home-made cookies for the children.

Missoula County High School Future Farmers of America students donated more than three hours to hide the eggs and help monitor the young egg hunters.

Smiling, candy and cookie-smeared faces of the children confirmed that parents, kids and grandparents had a grand time at the Easter Egg Hunt.



(above) **Lindsey Huguet, 2,**
and **Jake Nimlos, 2,** fill
their Easter egg basket.



(left) **Megan,** granddaughter
of Francine Nimmeman, RO
Human Resources, gathers
Easter eggs.

Heritage Day

Roots Revisited, Clearwater Style

by Linda Hinds,
Budget & Accounting Analyst,
Clearwater National Forest, Orofino, Idaho

Gopher sausage, Bagna Caulda, Wooden shoes, German potato salad, Biscuitroot? Sound familiar?

The Clearwater National Forest was able to experience a little bit of diversity in a different way when the Forest Human Relations Action Committee (HRAC) sponsored Heritage Day in late January. The day was selected to celebrate the idea behind Martin Luther King, Jr., Day: a day set aside to honor all people and recognize and accept the diversity in all. Heritage Day was a time when we got to know our co-workers and a little bit about their "roots," and share foods and ideas from their homelands. Heritage Day, a forest-wide celebration, including slides from native countries, food and games at each of the Districts and the Supervisor's



An elite panel of judges peruses the delicacies brought by participants at Heritage Day. From left to right, Dave "Where's the Food" Poncin, Fire Staff Officer, Nez Perce/Clearwater Fire Zone; Clearwater retirees Moe "Bon Appetit" Pare and Bob "Gallop Gourmet" Campbell.

Photo by Kathy Thompson.

Office. The highlight of the event was the judging of food dishes in categories such as most unusual, overall best main dish and dessert.

Recipes from the culinary treats were gathered and are being compiled in a cookbook available for a small fee. (To obtain your copy, contact Linda Hinds, Clearwater NF SO.)

This celebration allowed many people to share their diverse backgrounds. At the Supervisor's Office, decorations and music from around the world filled the room. Retirees were also invited to participate and share their history.

With the success of Heritage Day, HRAC is considering making this an annual event.

Clearwater NF Honors 25 SCSEP Employees



SCSEP ENROLLEES, PAST & PRESENT, honored by the Clearwater NF SO in Orofino. Front row, l to r: Maryona Muck, Jeanne Brown, Geraldine McCammon, Jean Creaser, Jean Rhodes and Fern Hardin. Back row: Edna Savage, Ralph Norton, Bob DeWitt, Clifford Pickett, Don Adair, Barbara Gordon, Gail Frazier, Betsy Callen, Dusty Rhodes, Jack Stratton and Travis Haynes. Photo by Kathy Thompson.

By Kathy Thompson,
Clearwater NF SO

Clearwater NF employees who work in the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) were honored in mid-March at a program in the Supervisor's Office in Orofino, Idaho.

Jean Creaser, SCSEP coordinator, hosted the get-together of SCSEP employees and District representatives. Bennie Weddle, Pierce RD, introduced Betsy Callen. Bill Irby, the other SCSEP employee from the District, was unable to attend the celebration.

Maryona Muck, SCSEP enrollee on the Palouse RD for many years, introduced Orval Butts, another SCSEP worker on the District. Virginia Colvin was unable to attend the program.

Bill Wells, North Fork RD, introduced four SCSEP workers from the District: Sewell Baskett, Travis Haynes, Paul "Dusty" Rhodes and his wife Jean Rhodes. District Ranger Art Bourassa gave a special word of thanks for the work of Don Adair who drives a 200-mile route each week to collect campground fees on the North Fork RD.

Lochsa District Ranger Cindy Lane introduced the SCSEP employees who work out of the ranger station in Kooskia: James Baldwin, Jeanne Brown, Harold (Bob) DeWitt, Gail Frazier, Barbara Gordon, Ralph Norton and Clifford Pickett. Edna Savage and Fern Hardin, two long-time, former SCSEP employees, and Forest Service retiree Inge Stickney, mayor of Kooskia, also attended. Powell RD SCSEP worker Ben Huss was unable to attend.

Diana Bishop, Forest personnel officer, introduced the five SCSEP employees who work in the Clearwater SO: Don Adair, Jean Creaser, Geraldine McCammon, Jack Stratton and Sharon Taylor. SO employees honored the SCSEP workers with a potluck at noon. Dr. John Riley of Clearwater Valley Hospital in Orofino, addressed the SCSEP enrollees and other Clearwater NF employees on "Popular Misconceptions of Old Age."

Nez Perce- Clearwater Reunion Canceled; Rescheduled For '97

The Nez Perce NF/Clearwater NF retiree reunion, scheduled for the Nez Perce NF this summer, has been canceled. It has been rescheduled for the summer of 1997, announced Bob Rehfeld, Grangeville, Idaho. For additional information, telephone Bob at (208) 983-9189.

Clearwater National Forest Supervisor Jim Caswell would like to alert all of the Northern Region retirees of the meeting of the R-1 Leadership Team at Kelly Forks the week of August 5. The Regional Forester and his team would like to spend one day of that week with the retirees. Watch for more information to be announced soon.

Wynsma Receives "Makes A Difference" Timber Program Award

by Carl Gidlund, Public Affairs Officer, Idaho Panhandle NFs, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Forestry Technician Barry Wynsma, Bonners Ferry RD, Idaho Panhandle NFs, has been named the "the employee who made a difference" in the Northern Region's 1995 timber program.

Wynsma received the award at the National Timber Products meeting in Fort Collins, Colorado. He has been a full-time Forest Service employee since 1984. He has been assigned to the Bonners Ferry RD since 1988.

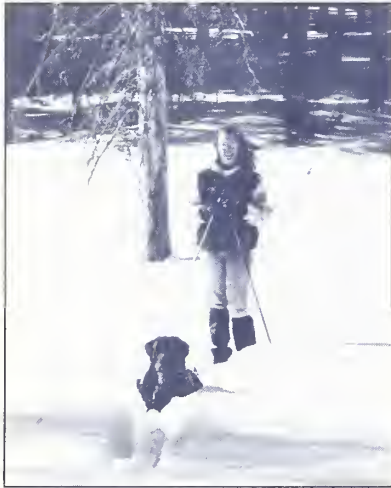
According to his supervisor, Patrick Cooley, Wynsma is driven and self-motivated. "He has treated hundreds of acres of overstocked timber stands and his work has resulted in employment for dozens of independent loggers. Barry has helped the District, Forest and Region achieve difficult-to-meet timber targets," Cooley said.

Wynsma also worked with contract specialists in developing a contract clause which does not require marking each tree to be harvested. The technique is credited with saving the district thousands of dollars in manpower and sale layout costs.

Cooley said Wynsma's most impressive accomplishments have been in developing a successful roundwood sales program. "Barry has been invited to meetings in Montana, Idaho and Washington to explain his program to other Forest Service employees and private individuals." Idaho Panhandle NFs' Timber Staff Officer Del Mitchell says "Barry has found ways to make things happen regardless of the barriers confronting selling timber. I'm very pleased that his good works and extra efforts have not gone unnoticed."

Photo Exhibit At Regional Training Academy,

April 9-12, University of Montana, Missoula



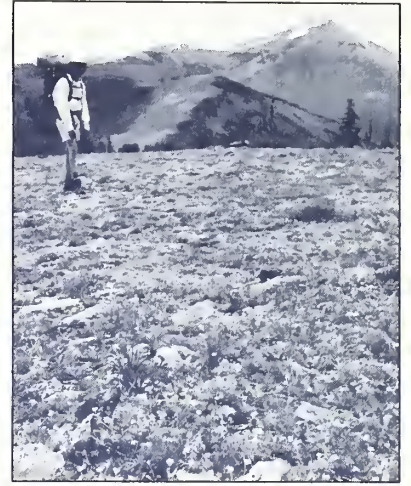
DEB PRICE, BITTERROOT NF, SO, on the Shoofly Trail, Wisdom (MT) RD, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NFs, with her dog, "Moses." Photographer: Linsey Strickland, Beaverhead-Deerlodge NFs, SO, Butte, MT.



HELLROARING PLATEAU, Custer NF. Photographer: Lori Ankrum, Beartooth RD, Custer NF, Red Lodge, MT.



FISH LAKE, GOSPEL HUMP WILDERNESS.▷ Photographer: Nancy Rusho, Nez Perce NF, SO, Grangeville, Idaho.



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE, near Rogers Pass. Photographer: Kurt B. Teuber, Lewis & Clark NF, SO, Great Falls, MT.



ELKHORN MOUNTAINS. Photographer: Vicky MacLean, Helena RD, Helena NF.

Regas Assigned to Nez Perce SO For Health, Safety, Wellness

by Laura Smith, Information Specialist,
Nez Perce NF SO Grangeville, Idaho

The Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor's Office recently welcomed George Regas to a 6-month temporary assignment as the new Health, Safety & Wellness Program Leader. He worked as a supervisory forester on the Red River RD, Elk City, Idaho, Nez Perce NF from 1985-1995.

The importance in restructuring the Forest health, safety and wellness (HSW) program was recognized after attendance at the Regional HSW Conference in Missoula last year.

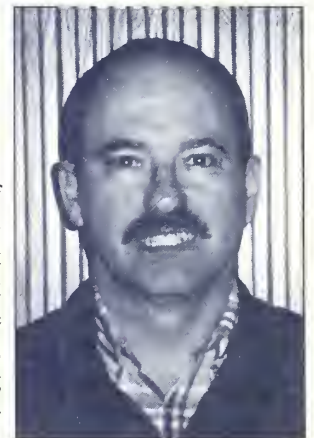
Regas is a Certified Advanced Emergency Medical Technician, State of Idaho Emergency Services Instructor for Hazardous Materials and Emergency Medical Training, and a member of the State of Idaho Critical Inci-

dent Stress Debriefing Team.

"Since our family motto is: public service is not a job, it's away of life," George says the family's hobbies center around community service activities. George serves in the Elk City Area Alliance as a board member and medical services committee chairperson, and as a volunteer reservist for Idaho County and Idaho Department of Fish & Game.

George's wife, Barb, is an Idaho Emergency Services Instructor, a community First Aid/ Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Instructor, President of Elk City Ambulance Services, a member of the Elk City Area Alliance, Region One Aid Station Manager, and member of the State Critical Incident Debriefing Team.

Their daughter, Kari, is in the Bachelor of Science nursing program at Lewis & Clark State College and their son, Mike, is taking Advanced Individual Training for the Oregon National Guard in South Carolina and will return to Oregon to continue his education.



George Regas
Photo by Laura Smith



Tirecloth Applied To Trail

In Little Belt Mountains, Musselshell Ranger District

by Wayne Butts & Roxie Stroud,
Musselshell RD, Harlowton, Montana.
Lewis & Clark National Forest.

Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association Volunteers tie together two fifty-foot sections of tirecloth matting. Photo by Wayne Butts.

Musselshell RD, Lewis & Clark NF, personnel and Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association (MTVRA) members from Great Falls and Billings spent a weekend last fall installing 150 feet of tirecloth on Haymaker Trail in the Little Belt Mountains.

The section of trail, 200 yards SE from Haymaker Park and approximately one mile

SE of Willow Creek Road, is continually muddy and rutted without prospects of drying due to a 300% increase in all terrain vehicle (ATV) and motorcycle use in recent years.

The tirecloth was purchased with a grant from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Tirecloth, a virtually indestructible matting material, is made from recycled steel-belted auto and truck tires. The matting

can be woven into various configurations, ranging in weight from 3 to 5 pounds per square foot.

Tirecloth will conform to any surface, however irregular. Being an open weave fabric, grass, willow and native plants will grow up through it and obscure the matting in a single season. It resists rutting by vehicles or cattle. Life-cycle for the tirecloth is expected to be 20 to 50 years, depending upon use.

Employee Spotlight

Name: Myra Theimer.

From: Billings, Montana.

Profession: Silviculture Forester, Clearwater NF, North Fork RD, Orofino, Idaho. I am the field forester for all the silviculture programs on the District.

Best Part of My Job: Actually being able to see the results of my shop's combined effort on the ground. Going back and looking at earlier plantations.

Previous Life: Powell Ranger Station; Kootenai, Lolo and the Idaho Panhandle.

Favorite Place In the World: Bousov Castle in the Czech Republic.

People I Wish I'd Met: My Grandfather, Gifford Pinchot, Chief Joseph, Leonard Bernstein.

How I Spend My Time Away From Work/ How I'd LIKE to Spend my Time: Hiking, skiing, iceskating, playing the violin and a little fishing.

Wish I'd Been There When...: I would like to have seen the North Fork District before it was hit with the white pine blister rust infection.

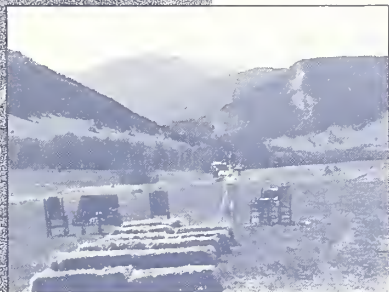
The vacation I dream about: Australia.

Fantasy Job: Small sales forester that writes the NEPA document, lays out the sale, writes up the package and the prescriptions, administers the contract and has time to go back and evaluate the results.

My Greatest Adventure: Going to the Czech Republic.

Achievement I'm Most Proud Of: Working with others in the renewable resource field, and my part in the construction of a tree cooler at Canyon Work Center...knock on wood, because it's not done yet! Playing in the Washington/Idaho Symphony.

Where I'd Live if \$ were no object: Yellowstone National Park.



Myra Theimer and her violin brought music to Teri and Ed Seth's wedding in May (1994) in the upper Boulder River Canyon in the Absaroka Range, north of Yellowstone National Park. Photo by Ruth Fenn.

Personnel Actions

BEAVERHEAD-DEERLODGE NATIONAL FORESTS

Awards & Promotions

DORVALL, RENE, computer assistant, SO, extra effort award
JONES, ROBERT, forestry technician, Butte RD, temporary promotion

Reassignments/Transfers

TREJO, JEFF, supervisory forester, Mt Hood NF, Bear Springs RD, reassignment to Wise River RD

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

BEER, JEFF, supervisory training specialist, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award

BREWER, TAMI, forestry technician, Stevensville RD, extra effort award
DECKER, RUTH, student services clerk, Trapper Creek JCC, promoted to training technician

DOYLE, GAY, recreation assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award
ERDMAN, DON, teacher, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award
FERGESSON, CLARENCE, supervisory recreation specialist, Trapper Creek JCC, extra effort award

FRANK, CHRISTIAN, teacher, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award
FUCHS, JIM, supervisory social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award

HAYES, TED, welder training leader, Trapper Creek JCC, extra effort award
HUGHES, MISSY, support services specialist, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award

KAHL, JIM, supply technician, Trapper Creek JCC, extra effort award
KASTNER, JOHN, teacher, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award
KIEFFER, SALLY, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, extra effort award
KOWACK, MARK, teacher, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award
KNEZ, NORMA, supervisory cook, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award
MAJORS, MARCIA, teacher, Trapper Creek JCC, extra effort award
MOORE, PATTE, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, extra effort award
SHOOK, LYSLE, gardener training leader, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award

STEWART, CATHY, forester, Stevensville RD, extra effort award
SWINDLE, CHINOOK, supervisory training specialist, Trapper Creek JCC, performance bonus award

Reassignments/Transfers

DUNN, MARTIN, alcohol & drug abuse specialist, Anaconda JCC, reassigned to guidance counselor

New Employees

DAY, PETER, social services aid, Anaconda JCC
HACKMAN, BRETT, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC
HAMMEL, JOHN, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC
MOORE, PATRICIA, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC
ROBERTS, VIOLET, senior community service employment program, Darby RD

Resignations/Retirements

OLK, TAMMY, community health nurse, Anaconda JCC, resignation
BROWN, IRENE, cook, Trapper Creek JCC, retirement

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

HANSEN, KURT, rangeland management specialist, Sheyenne RD, promotion
PETERS, ANN, accounting technician, SO, temporary promotion, budget & accounting analyst

WALSH, CATHY, applications clerk, Medora RD, temporary promotion, support services specialist

Reassignments/Transfers

MARQUIS, SANDRA, resource specialist, RO, reassignment, budget & accounting officer, SO

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

ALBERT, BOB, logistics assistant, SO, extra effort award
APPLEKAMP, EARL, supervisory civil engineer, SO, extra effort award
CRAWFORD, DONNA, purchasing agent, SO, extra effort award
JACOBS, AMY, biological science technician, Tally Lake RD, temporary promotion
LEISER, ED, supervisory planning team coordinator, temporary promotion
MCCARTHY, DENNIS, operations research analyst, SO, quality step increase
OTTO, TOM, lead forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, extra effort award
RICE, NOLA, procurement assistant, SO, quality step increase
ROBERTS, WARREN, forestry technician, SO, extra effort award

SCHMIDT, RODNEY, cartographic technician, SO, promotion
SUTTON, EARL, biological scientist, SO, quality step increase
SUTTON, JODY, program assistant, WO, temporary promotion & detail
VENTURINI, BARBARA, procurement assistant, SO, quality step increase

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

Reassignments/Transfers

SEARS, LARRY, supervisory forester, Gardiner RD, reassignment, deputy district ranger, Ozark/St Francis NF, St Francis RD

Resignations/Retirements

KRAGER, RONALD, wildlife biologist, Bozeman RD, retirement
SMITH, TINA, resource clerk, Hebgen Lake RD, resignation

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

Reassignments/Transfers

PARKER, KEVIN, range technician, Lincoln RD

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

Awards & Promotions

ODEGAARD, EDWIN, forestry technician, St Joe RD, promotion
SALINAS, FERNANDO, telecommunications specialist, SO, promotion

New Employees

CRALLEY, DEANNA, forestry technician, Wallace RD
DANSART, WILLIAM, hydrologist technician, St Maries RD
JONES, GEORGIA, senior community service employment program enrollee, recreation, St Maries RD
KRUG, JORDAN, forestry technician, St Joe RD
SUMMERS, JOE, forestry technician, Wallace RD
VAN BROEKE, KEITH, forestry technician, Wallace RD
ZUFELT, TERRY, forestry technician, Wallace RD

Reassignments/Transfers

BOHON, TRACY, information receptionist, reassignment, mail and file clerk, SO
CROSSER, DAVID, lead forestry technician, St Joe RD, reassignment
HALE, MARK, lead forestry technician, reassignment, forestry technician, St Joe RD
HAWKINS, BRUCE, supervisory forest technician, Wallowa-Whitman NF, reassignment, St Maries RD
RICHARDSON, JEAN, finance and pay assistant, reassignment, civilian pay clerk, Bonners Ferry RD

Resignations

MCQUADE, GLORIA, forestry technician, St Joe RD, resignation

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

PUCKEY, JAMES, forestry technician, Rexford RD, extra effort award
WEGNER, STEVEN, hydrologist, Libby RD, quality step increase
ZEARFOSS, JACK, civil engineer, West Zone, extra effort award

New Employees

WORTH, PATSY, information receptionist, Cabinet RD

Reassignments/Transfers

DAMM, JENNIFER, support services supervisor, R2 Arapaho Roosevelt NF, reassignment, Three Rivers RD
DRURY, BEVERLY, information receptionist, Rexford RD, reassignment, resource clerk, Three Rivers RD
HOLMAN, MICHELLE, forester, Libby RD, reassignment, Three Rivers RD
MITCHELL, LEWIS, computer specialist, R2 Medicine Bow-Routt NF, reassignment, computer assistant, SO

Resignations

DONALLY, KIRSTEN, forester, Rexford RD, resignation

LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

HAGEN, ARLYSS, resource specialist, SO, performance award
HERTEL, JACKIE, budget and finance officer, SO, performance award
OTTENHEIMER, JANE, purchasing agent, SO, promotion
VERGITH, GEOFFREY, computer specialist, SO, performance award
ZACHARY, STEVE, forestry technician, Kings Hill RD, promotion

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

Awards & Promotions

ENYEART, KAY, office automation assistant, Seeley Lake RD, promotion
GREENLEE, JOHN, botanist, SO, promotion

Personnel Actions

Canada to SO

JOHNSON, RAY, drill rig operator, SO, promotion
 LIGHT, TIM, archeologist, SO, promotion
 PETERSON, KAREN, business management clerk, Seeley Lake RD, promotion
 OGDEN, RON, law enforcement officer, Seeley Lake RD, promotion

REGIONAL OFFICE

Awards & Promotions

HULLA, DICK, airplane pilot, AFD, promotion
 KINDERMAN, JEFF, supervisory forestry technician, AFD, extra effort award
 MASON, PHILIP, materials handler leader, AFD, promotion
 NORDBERG, ROBERT, materials handler leader, AFD, promotion
 PHELAN, SEAN, materials handler leader, AFD, promotion
 REID, JAMES, supervisory computer specialist, IS, extra effort award
 RESNER, BONNIE, supply management specialist, AFD, promotion
 WENIGER, EVERETT, supervisory forestry technician smokejumper, AFD, promotion & performance bonus award

New Employees

PFAHLER, TIM, aircraft pilot, AFD

Reassignments/Transfers

LUOMA, HERBERT, airplane pilot, AFD, transfer
 MUNTHER, SHERRY, public affairs specialist, EA&P, reassignment, appeals specialist
 WILLIAMS, JERRY, assistant director, F&AM-WO reassignment
 staff director FA&A-RO

In Memoriam

GEORGE L. CROSS, 79, died April 17 in Missoula. A veteran of 25 years with the Forest Service, Cross started his Forest Service career in 1956 on the Bonners Ferry Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests. He transferred to the Sandpoint Ranger District, Idaho Panhandle National Forests in 1962. He was promoted in 1966 to the Philipsburg Ranger District, Deerlodge National Forest, where he served as a civil engineering technician. He worked closely with the engineers in the Deerlodge National Forest SO in Butte. Cross retired in 1981.

ROBERT W. PARKER, 77, died April 23 in Missoula. Born in Lewistown, Montana, Parker graduated from Missoula County High School in 1936 and enrolled in the University of Montana. After serving with the U.S. Army in World War II, Parker returned to the University of Montana and graduated from the School of Law in 1946. He served as Missoula Deputy County Attorney for ten years. From 1956 to 1982, he worked in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the General Counsel in Missoula, providing legal services to the Forest Service, Farmers' Home Administration, Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service and the Soil Conservation Service. He was attorney in charge in the Missoula OGC from 1970 until his retirement in 1982.

EUSEBIO SOTO III, 37, of Elmo, Montana, died April 17 at St. James Hospital in Butte. He was born in Corpus Christi, Texas. Soto had worked the last eight years for the Forest Service as a firefighter in the Missoula area.

GEORGE B. VINSON, 83, of Big Arm, Montana, died May 9 in Polson, Montana. He worked for the Bruns Horse Ranch in the Big Draw as a packer for the Forest Service and at the Remount Station in Perma. He raised cattle and horses at his Big Arm ranch. George had a keen eye for good horseflesh and loved a good trade.



Caribou arrives at Panhandle NFs' SO: Karl Krueger and Robin Loper guide the caribou down the truck ramp while Paul Harrington and Beth Paragamian, in the truck, provide braking. Photo by Grady Myers.

Mountain Caribou In New Habitat: Idaho Panhandle SO

by Paul Harrington, wildlife biologist,
Idaho Panhandle NFs SO, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The Panhandle NFs headquarters now has its own caribou. The adult bull has taken up residence in the reception area, where he is keeping an eye on our receptionists, Janet Zortman and Tracy Bohon, and the busy traffic through the reception area.

Donated to the IPNF by Washington State University, where he was used in food habit research, the four-year-old bull arrived at the SO in a rental truck.

Originally from a population in British Columbia, the life-size mount represents a typical mountain caribou ecotype of the woodland caribou, found in the Selkirk of northern Idaho.

The woodland caribou is related to the reindeer and other members of the deer family. Adult males often weigh 400-500 pounds. Both sexes of the woodland caribou have antlers; males have the larger antlers.

The woodland caribou has disappeared from the continental United States, except for a small remnant population in the southern Selkirk Mountains of northern Idaho, southern British Columbia and northeastern Washington. Selkirk Mountain caribou were listed as an endangered species in 1984 under the Endangered Species Act. Today they may be one of the most endangered wildlife. Plans are in the works to augment the existing population with caribou from central British Columbia to promote the recovery of the Selkirk Mountain population. The mount is a gorgeous addition to our growing wildlife collection in the SO lobby. Next time you are in the SO, visit the lobby area and enjoy this beautiful representative of the caribou species.

Flathead & Kootenai NFs

Inventory Analysis Includes Fiber, Growth, Mortality, Habitat, Etc.

by Lyle Thompson, Assistant Inventory Supervisor,
Flathead National Forest, Kalispell, Montana

The Forest Inventory Analysis that started in 1994 on the Flathead and Kootenai NFs, was continued in 1995 by eleven two-to-three-person crews on the Bitterroot NF.

These skilled and dedicated crew members are based at the Inventory Service Center on the Flathead NF, Kalispell, Montana.

Members of the crews traveled on roads and trails and lived out of tents and trailers on Districts and Forests as they did inventory analysis field work. By mid-September, crews completed the Bitterroot NF's 252 plots, including 121 plots in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. Equipment was packed into the inventory crews. They worked in 10-day hitches in the Wilderness.

Cooperation of Forest and District personnel with inventory goals has been tremendous. The interaction provided by the Bitterroot Forest coordinator Jeff Amoss and all the District people was a real plus. It would not have been possible to meet the analysis working objec-

tives without their help. Crews found it a real pleasure working with them.

This inventory is part of the "Interior West States" resource inventory, monitoring and evaluation program on all forest lands (Federal, State, private) in the interior West. Information from the analysis will be a key part of the next Resources Planning Act (RPA) update.

Analysis data will be used in estimating forested land areas, wood fiber volumes, tree growth/mortality, understory composition, story composition, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities and other related forest assets. The data is the basis for periodic analysis of renewable resources, including current conditions, use trends and potential forest production.

Lolo NF is next on the forest inventory analysis schedule. The Lewis & Clark, the Helena NFs and other east-side Forests follow on the schedule as time, weather and funding permit.

Articles for Northern Region News

Employee/retiree readers of THE NORTHERN REGION NEWS are interested in items and stories about events, work and people on your District and Forest. Help us tell the readers the who, what, when and where. Readers enjoy reading about activities in your area.

Articles should be short: no more than 300 to 350 words. We're especially interested in stories about people, their work, recognition, upcoming events, Forest Service work with local groups and communities, innovative and unique management and administrative approaches, success stories. Please: no editorials, jokes, poems or recipes.

Our goal is to carry articles from all R-1 Forests. Submit items to the Public Affairs Office (ATT: Jud Moore 406/329-3093; DG address: j.moore:R01A) about the 1st of the month for publication in the next month's newsletter. All articles are subject to editing.

Questions? Telephone the RO Public Affairs Office.

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